

GERMAN VOTE MEANS FASCISM OR COMMUNISM

Socialists Betray Workers, Then Go Their Way

BERLIN, Germany.—Having betrayed the German workers and rendered them slaves to the House of Morgan under the Dawes Plan, the Social-Democratic traitors have handed the government over to the monarchists and fascists.

The victory of the monarchists is the death blow to social-democracy in Germany, and these social traitors already so weakened among the workers thru their many infamous actions, are no longer an important factor in German politics as far as the workers are concerned.

Thaelmann Gets Two Million Votes.
Ernst Thaelmann, the Communist candidate for President received approximately two million votes. This big vote came in face of the fact that the main issue in the election was republic or monarchy. Now that Hindenburg has been elected, the main issue as far as the working class is concerned becomes: "Monarchism or Communism?"

Working Class Youth Fights Monarchists.

In the days immediately preceding the elections there was much fighting between Monarchists and Communist groups, the social-democrat fakery remaining passive except in the matter of the casting of votes. The revolutionary youth led the fight on the monarchists, during which several were killed and many injured.

It is expected here that Hindenburg will proceed slowly with the work of restoring the monarchy, but that he will immediately strengthen all the fascist military forces of the country.

House of Morgan "Not Worried."

The big U. S. interests which have so much at stake in the Dawes Plan are not worried about the Hindenburg victory according to all reports. Hindenburg's campaign manager has announced that the new president will not oppose the Dawes Plan but will do his best to serve Wall Street and aid in the exploitation of the German workers by the imperialists.

Senator Borah, so-called liberal chairman of the foreign relations committee in a statement said that the election of Hindenburg did not need to be regarded as disturbing, and that there would be nothing to worry about as the monarchist movement was "directed along right lines." He further states that he "feels it would be directed along right lines," which would seem to mean that he and the state department will do everything to aid the House of Morgan in seeing that Hindenburg is directed along lines that will bring the biggest profits to the Dawes Plan profiteers.

N. Y. School Authorities Scared Over League's Religious Campaign

A thorough investigation of the activities of the Young Workers' League within the public and high schools of New York City has been ordered by the board of education after a report had been sent to the board by Dr. John A. Ferguson, chairman of the building and sites committee of the board of education, about the meeting held by the Young Workers' League last Friday at which several hundred school children joined with older workers in protesting against the introduction of religious instruction in the schools.

The statements contained in the thousands of leaflets distributed by Y. W. L. members and the junior section have evidently gotten under the skin of Dr. Ferguson and the board of education, for they declare, "It would appear that this meeting is the best reason for the immediate placing in

John Reed Group Affair, May 23.
Tell it to the kids! No, it ain't about a circus, but the surprise affair that is being arranged by the John Reed Junior Group. They promise and interesting evening on Sat., May 23, at the Workers' Home, 1902 W. Division St. They won't tell what they are going to pull off, but they assure that it will be real surprise, dance, and a good time in general. So don't forget, tell it to the kids!

N. Y. Teachers Salary Boost Vetoed by Smith

ALBANY, N. Y.—Governor Al Smith has further qualified for president of the United States by vetoing the Ricca bill, intended to bring about a general increase in the salaries of school teachers in New York city.

War Maneuvers Opposed by U. S. and Jap Workers

By JACK RICHARDS.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The attempt of U. S. imperialists to force Japan into war by adding further insult to its immigration action by means of the Pacific maneuvers, is bringing on a storm of protest from workers and organizations thruout the country. Secretary Wilbur's waste paper baskets are filled with these protests, this being the place where any protests against the schemes of the U. S. Imperialists are thrown by the Wall Street government.

Even Pacifists Object.

The maneuvers are stirring up so much trouble in Japan that even the pacifists have written to Secretary Wilbur demanding that these war games stop. The Japanese are well aware of the fact that the U. S. government is using these maneuvers to demonstrate their strength in the Pacific and to warn Japan that it must let the U. S. exploiters have a free hand in China. But while the U. S. government is playing the game of bully the Japanese militarists are making good use of the strong sentiments against the maneuvers to stir up strong anti-American feeling among the Japanese workers and to militarize the young workers in Japan in case that the U. S. aggravates a war.

War On in Earnest.

In the meantime the war games are on in full force in Hawaiian waters. The "blue" forces, which everyone involved in the maneuvers knows represents Japan, is said to have sunk half the defending fleet and has captured the islands of Maui and Lanai in its attack on Honolulu. The strategic point which the naval experts are watching is the huge Pearl Harbor naval base, which is expected to play such an important role when the real slaughter starts.

The Young Communist soldiers in Hawaii who opposed imperialism in Hawaii when this island was already on a wartime basis (preparing for the huge maneuvers) are watching the big war practice from jail.

Landis Award School Trains Eighty Scabs in a Few Months Time

CHICAGO, Ill.—The open shop apprentice school conducted for the building trades in Chicago by the citizens' committee to enforce the Landis award, has trained more than eighty apprentices since November 1.

This school is conducted for the purpose of training young workers to take the place of the skilled building trades workers at greatly reduced pay. The more scabs this school can train and the faster they can turn them out, the less men have to be employed by the bosses at the union scale.

Education is "Free."

So anxious are the bosses for cheap labor in the building trades, that this education is given free. The school is especially proud of the fact that it can train carpenters, a job given up as hopeless by many other open shop schools. As soon as the young workers receive the barest possible preliminary class room training, they are sent on a job under an instructor and immediately start turning out profits for the bosses at low wages and competing with the higher paid workers on the job. There is no regular scale for these young workers once they get on a job, but they are paid "according to their ability," which means that the instructor in collaboration with the boss sets the lowest scale possible.

Young Workers' League Fight School

The Young Workers' League carries on a strenuous fight against all such open shop schools as this free building trades apprentice school in Chicago, the school run by the open shop employers' association for the printing trades and others. All young workers should fight with the league in demanding that all such schools be controlled by the union and not by the employers.

Jap an Aroused Over Failure of U. S. Captain to Rescue Sailors

TOKIO, Japan.—The Japanese press is much excited and featuring special articles regarding the inhumanity of the captain of the Homeric who refused to offer assistance to the Japanese ship Raifuku Maru off Nova Scotia. The Asahi, a Japanese paper, quotes the American captain as saying: "There were no white men—merely Japanese." There is much indignation over the whole affair here. The entire crew of the Raifuku Maru were drowned.



New War Looms in Morocco; French Slaughter Rifians

PARIS, France.—Another Moroccan war is threatened. The French government has warned the British and Spanish governments that it will undertake military operations against Abdel Krim, and cannot promise to respect the demarcation line of the Spanish zone, which the Spanish retreat left unprotected. French columns already are concentrated on the border, and a movement is about to begin to throw out Abdel Krim from the territory.

The foreign legion, which will take a leading part in these operations, now is 50 per cent Russian white guards and German soldiers of fortune. A British officer just returned from the zone reports that the French are compelled to use Germans exclusively in dealing with some outlying posts.

The British government will not place obstacles in the way of the French, even if the Spanish zone is violated, so long as the coast is not disturbed.

Get a sub—make another Communist!



PAUL CROUCH

TROUBLE AHEAD FOR PARLEY ON ARMS CONTROL

GENEVA, Switzerland.—With the time fast approaching for the May international conference for the control of the traffic in arms, all indications point to failure for this mock disarmament meeting.

Soviet Russia has refused to participate in this capitalist conference, and has issued a clear statement explaining its stand and pointing out that the conference is not for the purpose of disarming, but is an aid to a few of the great powers in strengthening their hold on the smaller nations.

The draft of the convention prepared by the league disarmament commission requires ratification by twelve powers, among them Belgium, the United States, France, Britain, Italy, Japan and Russia. Now that Soviet Russia has declined the invitation with pleasure and with much doubt on the part of the commission as to whether the United States should be retained, things look pretty dark for the parley.

Arguments against excluding America are being met in league circles with an explanation that if the United States fails to ratify the treaty the other nations will not feel like committing themselves, since the United States is regarded as the largest arms exporter by experts here. If the trade were left open to the United States munitions makers, the war profiteers in the other countries would kick.

THOUSANDS TO PARADE IN JAPAN ON MAY DAY, POLICE CALLED OUT

TOKYO, Japan, April 28.—Twenty thousand persons are expected to parade in Tokyo on May Day, with similar parades of many thousands of other workers scheduled in industrial centers thruout Japan.

The tenant farmers and agricultural laborers are organizing May Day demonstrations in the rural districts.

Three thousand police and gendarmes and two thousand plain clothes men have been ordered into the streets of Tokyo for May Day.

GET A SUB AND GIVE ONE!

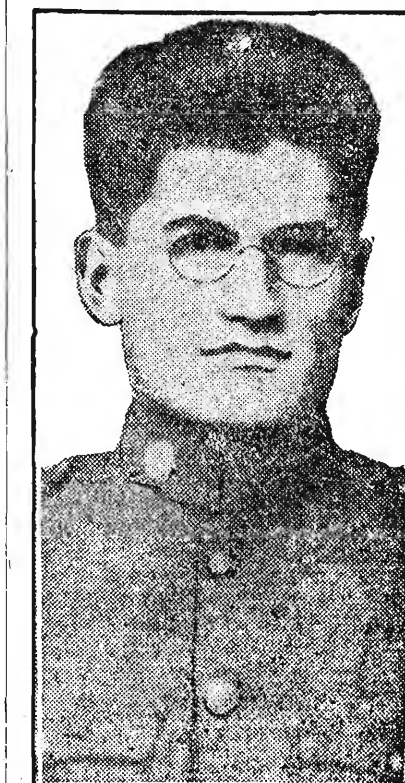
Enrique Flores Magon, Mexican Youth Leader, Joins Communist Ranks

MEXICO CITY, Mexico.—The present trend of the revolutionary movement in Mexico is further indicated by news that Enrique Flores Magon, cousin of Ricardo and Enrique, famous Mexican revolutionists, has become a Communist.

Ricardo Flores Magon was the first to raise his voice against the dictatorship of Diaz and was thruout his life a revolutionary working class leader well known to all Mexican workers, as well as he was known in the United States.

The brothers Ricardo and Enrique were both Anarchists. The name of Flores Magon is well known thruout Mexico, and it is significant that Enrique Flores has joined with the present trend of the Mexican movement and become a Communist.

Besides being a member of the Communist Party of Mexico, he is one of the most active leaders of the Youth Movement here. The Young Communist League is now going thru a period of reorganization and Enrique Flores Magon is head of the reorganization committee.



WALTER TRUMBULL

YOUTH WILL DEMONSTRATE AGAINST IMPERIALISM AND WARS AT MAY DAY CELEBRATIONS THRUOUT THE WORLD

May Day 1925! For young workers the world over, the holiday of the workers. The day when we celebrate our international solidarity, when we demonstrate our opposition to capitalism, its wars and exploitation.

War Against War!

On May Day, 1925, the U. S. navy is conducting the biggest maneuvers ever attempted. With war clouds fast gathering over the Pacific and great danger that the imperialist groups will at any moment openly clash over China, the U. S. government is doing its best to get the navy in shape and propagandize for an increase in the naval appropriations. And at the same time the U. S. bosses do their best to make the maneuvers an insult to Japan and a warning to the British imperialists.

Against the Pacific maneuvers against the military preparations of the U. S. government and other capitalist governments thruout the world, the Young Workers' League and other Young Communist Leagues raise the slogan of: "War on war!" "Down with capitalist militarism!"

Complete Abolition of Child Labor.
On May Day 1925 the bosses are trying to divert the minds of the working youth from the revolutionary significance of the day, by naming May 1st "Child Health Day."

And at the same time, with the beginning of May, the child labor amendment has been defeated and child labor is increasing in America at a greater rate than ever before. Into the streets, into the factories, the mills and mines, the children are going in greater and greater numbers.

Against the sham of "Child Health Day," the Young Workers' League raises the slogan of complete abolition of child labor.

Exploitation Increases.

On May Day 1925 the young workers find their conditions in industry worse than ever before. Even while unemployment is growing, more and more young workers are being driven into industry, where they replace older workers at lower wages and under non-union conditions. With the help of long hours and the speed-up system, the bosses squeeze the last cent of profits possible out of the youth, taking them young and strong and working them at top speed until they are worn out. On top of this, the bosses are launching a huge wage cut drive, and are hoping that the youth and child laborers will hold their jobs and force the older workers to accept the reductions.

But against these attempts of the American bosses to enslave the youth, and keep them working under the most intolerable conditions, the Young Workers' League raises its economic demands and calls upon all the young workers who do not care to be slaves of the boss class to join them in the fight on these issues.

Fighting Imperialism.

On May Day 1925 the boss class in the United States finds itself better entrenched than ever before as the strongest imperialist nation. Not content with its colonies such as Cuba, Hawaii, and the Philippines, the Wall Street gang is busy tightening its grip on China and on Europe thru the Dawes plan. With the most reactionary government in power, headed by the strikebreaker Cal Coolidge and the open-shopper, "Hell-and-Maria" Dawes, American capitalism is stopping at nothing to extend its power and its oppression over the whole world.

Sharing in responsibility for the white terror in Bulgaria and almost every other country, supporting the Fascists in Italy, fighting relentlessly against the workers' Republic in Russia, preparing to send workers to slaughter to extend its influence and increase its profits; the U. S. boss class and its government is the most hated force of oppression to workers in every corner of the whole world. The Young Workers' League joins the other young workers in Europe, in the colonies, in its fight against American and world imperialism, and fights with the Workers' (Communist) Party for a Workers' and Farmers' Government in America and for a Union of Socialist Soviet Republics to include the entire world.

On May Day the revolutionary youth of America echoes the cry:
Down with world imperialism!
Down with capitalism, its wars and exploitation!
Forward to the Workers' Republic!

**Imperialists to Hold
Big Marine Exposition**
(Special to Young Worker.)
NEW YORK CITY.—The U. S. imperialists will hold a big demonstration in New York City during the week of November 9 to 14, 1925, when a huge marine exposition will be staged there.

WAR GAMES BOOSTING NAVY SO RECRUITING IS RESUMED

Recruiting for the navy has been resumed. The Great Lakes naval training station is prepared to receive thirty recruits a day, according to an announcement made by Capt. Waldo Evans, commandant of the station.

Sea, Subway and Trolley Strike Cripples Hamburg

HAMBURG, Germany.—The traffic of Hamburg was completely paralyzed recently by a strike of the underground railways, tramways and passenger steamers.

Y. W. L. CAMPAIGN ON TO ORGANIZE NEGRO WORKERS

Phillips to Visit All Chicago Branches

A committee elected by the last city central committee of the Young Workers League Local Chicago for the Negro work, has just met and outlined a plan of preliminary activities for a campaign to organize young Negro workers, the most exploited of all the young workers.

All the branches and nuclei are instructed to get information from their membership thru inquiry of the factories employing young Negro workers in their territory, as well as Negro residential districts, so that a city wide campaign may be started, participated in by every branch and nucleus.

Survey Under Way

Comrades of the committee were charged with gathering information on the industries employing young Negro workers in the city of Chicago, others were instructed to gather information on organizations where many young Negro workers hold membership, clubs, etc. so that we can approach them there.

A systematic plan of work has been proposed for Branch No. 3, so that its program will be balanced and the Negroes gotten into the League and kept there on the basis of our demand, our program and our activity and not merely on sentimental, social or racial lines. They must be drawn into League activity at once and the city executive must at once prepare a series of lectures on the various phases of league work to be presented at the branch by capable comrades. Shop talks should be encouraged and wherever possible, nuclei should be formed at once.

A committee was appointed to draw up a propaganda leaflet containing a combination membership and YOUNG WORKER sub blank. Street meetings and noon-day meetings should be arranged at stockyards and other places where possibilities exist.

Phillips to Visit All Branches

The city is also touring Comrade Phillips thru all the branches to acquaint the membership most thoroughly with our program and our campaign among the young Negro workers and to get the branches 100 per cent behind this activity.

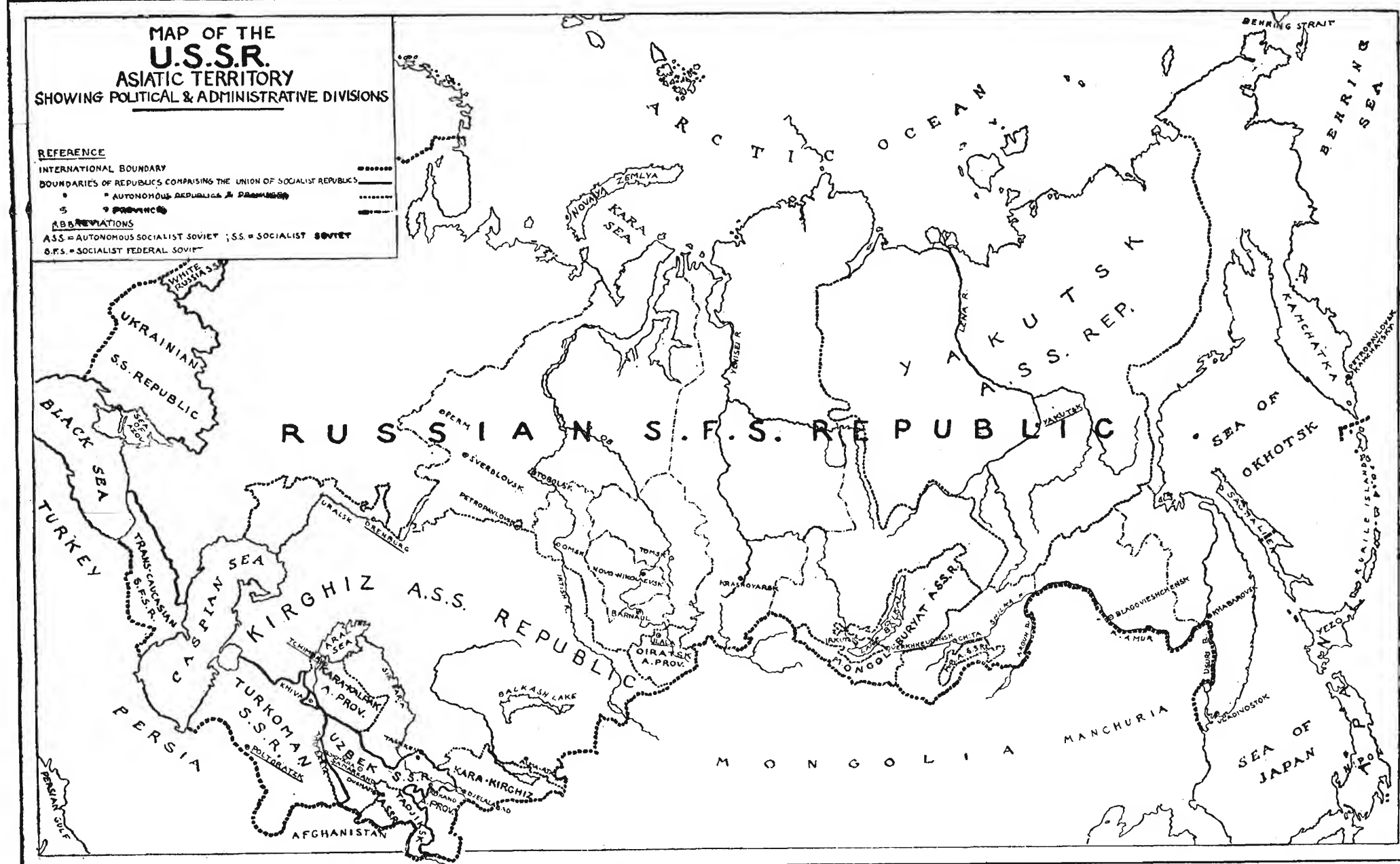
Our goal is to get 100 young Negro workers into our ranks in the next two or three months and with the active support of all the branches in the campaigns planned, with the Negro committee elected by the C. C. C. on the job and with the cooperation of the Workers Party which is also planning a campaign, there is no reason why this modest goal should not be surpassed.

Hindenburg Keeps Old Cabinet.

HANOVER, Germany, April 28.—It was learned here that president-elect Paul von Hindenburg in an hour's conference with Chancellor Luther today told Luther that he would ask the cabinet to remain in office.

Get a sub for the YOUNG WORKER from your shopmate and you will make another member for your branch.

MAP OF THE UNION OF SOVIET REPUBLICS IN ASIA—FROM THE BLACK SEA TO THE PACIFIC OCEAN



Before the memorable year of 1917, most of the class-conscious workers throughout the world thought of the overthrow of the present capitalist system of society as something for the far-away future. Those who read history from the workers' point of view believed in it, but their belief was only intellectual, it did not enter into their plans for the future. They would religiously vote the socialist ticket, and try to convince their fellow workers that their belief was correct. They did not try to get

them to act to accomplish the revolution, but only to believe in it. Socialism was a theory to be classed with the Einstein theory or the theory of evolution—true enough, to be sure, but not a thing requiring action. The capitalists themselves felt perfectly secure in their position as lords of society, and had no thought of interference from an organized working class. But the historic days of November changed all this. The formation of the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics marked a new epoch in the development of revolutionary ideas. Now

the "revolution" was no longer a dream for the future; it was here! The world revolution had already begun; it had begun with the seizure by the workers of over one-sixth of the earth's surface. The workers want the rest of it, and what is more, they are going to take it. That is the meaning of the work of the Communists; they are carrying out their plans of bringing the rest of the world into one great Union of Soviet Republics. Hence they are doing their best to build up the trade unions, to

strengthen all organizations of the workers, to aid the colonies in their struggles against imperialism, and in general to organize and arouse the workers for the great and final struggle. In that struggle the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics is at once a base for operations and a symbol of victory. From within the confines of the workers' republic the toilers of the world can be mobilized against the exploiters. The experience of the revolution of 1917 is the textbook which will guide the workers of other

lands to similar victory. Their success gives the workers of the world the inspiration to carry on their own struggles to the final victory. Soviet Russia stretches its red expanse over countless miles of territory in Europe and Asia. It joins the proletariat of the capitalist nations of Europe with the rising colonial peoples and the workers in the orient. It touches the great colonies and gives the millions of oppressed there the hope of victory from their oppressors. It covers one-sixth of the entire world!

SPLENDID PROGRAM ANNOUNCED FOR CHICAGO MAY DAY MEETING

The Chicago May Day committee announces its program for the big May Day celebration to be held at Temple Hall, Marshfield Ave. and Van Buren St., at 8 p. m. Admission is to be 25 cents. Tickets are now on sale at every Workers Party branch, at meetings, and in the city office of the Workers Party, 19 South Lincoln St.

All arrangements have been made to make this celebration an inspiring and educational event.

Musical entertainment and inspiration will be furnished by the Freiheit Singing and Mandolin Societies, the Scandinavian Singing Society, and the Young Workers League Orchestra.

The speakers will be James P. Cannon, C. E. Ruthenberg, Max Shachtman and Martin Abern.

Every Communist and every class conscious worker in Chicago should make it his job between now and May 1 to help make this year's May Day celebration a genuine demonstration of the solidarity of the workers all over the world, a challenge to capitalist reaction in the United States that will echo and re-echo thruout the world.

H. V. PHILLIPS ORGANIZING IN MILWAUKEE

By H. V. PHILLIPS.

MILWAUKEE, Wis.—The Y. W. L. here under the leadership of Comrade Austra Sungail is active and growing. At the meeting last night the comrades were very much interested in the question of the young Negro. Quite a bit of discussion was participated in by all.

Seeing the need of starting at the bottom and building to the top, the Y. W. L. here is starting a campaign to build up groups in the city and in that way get many Negro children who are in constant touch with the white children in the schools, on the playgrounds, etc.

The Garvey movement is the only organization here that has young Negroes in any large numbers. The young Negroes have developed a strong race consciousness. They speak of developing the race along the lines of the white capitalist countries and hope to settle their problems by some day building a great empire in Africa.

The Y. W. L. will point out to them that their scheme is Utopian, that white workers under the British empire suffer hardships and oppression under their white capitalist government. That the white workers in America are exploited by the white ruling class, and that the young Negro workers under a Negro capitalist government would also be exploited by Negro rulers who hope to ape the manners and ways of the white boss class.

There are possibilities of immediate organization of nuclei in 15 large Chicago shops where two or more league comrades are working.

City executive members and other active and responsible comrades have been assigned to each nucleus to officially establish them, to arrange for a definite meeting time and place and to lay out a plan of activity for each.

The make up of our membership at the present time is indeed very encouraging with approximately 20 per cent engaged in the clothing industry, 32 per cent in mail order houses and department stores, etc. This large percentage is due to the campaigns carried on in this industry. The remainder is divided almost equally among metal trades, building trades, leather workers, food workers, printing trade workers. Unemployed form a very small percentage and only 8 per cent are students.

With the organization of working area branches covering territories of Pullman and South Chicago and with the establishment of two nuclei in this territory, and with the campaign which is being contemplated by the city executive in the heavier industry, the percentage of members in the heavy industry will be considerably higher.

The branch committees were urged to pay more attention to the organization of all possible nuclei within their territory, so that as quickly as possible, the working area branches may

Our League at Work

Y. W. L. MEMBERSHIP MEETING, LOCAL CHICAGO, PLANS INCREASE OF NUCLEI IN HEAVY INDUSTRY

By VALERIA MELTZ.

The membership meeting of the Young Workers League, Local Chicago, last night at the Greek Hall, 722 Blue Island Ave., was one of the best attended, enthusiastic and constructive meetings ever held in Chicago.

Comrade Natalia Gomez presided at the meeting. The agenda of the city executive committee was read and accepted. The report for the city executive committee was given by Comrade Meltz and in all its points showed improvement and increase in the activities, since the last city convention.

The dues payment are becoming more regular, branches are clearing up their debts to the city office. The Chicago league leads the whole country in the sub campaign, some 120 subs have already been turned in, literature sales have increased considerably since the Young Worker is coming out weekly, all of the copies are now being sold and a greater percentage is being sold at the shops than ever before.

A quiet, slow but definite growth and proletarianization of the league can be noticed. Half of the executive committee are already workers from the shops and stores, the same with an even greater percentage of shop workers in the city central and all leading committees of the Chicago league.

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strengthen all organizations of the workers, to aid the colonies in their struggles against imperialism, and in general to organize and arouse the workers for the great and final struggle.

In that struggle the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics is at once a base for operations and a symbol of victory. From within the confines of the workers' republic the toilers of the world can be mobilized against the exploiters. The experience of the revolution of 1917 is the textbook which will guide the workers of other

HEAVY LOSS OF LIFE REPORTED IN SHAM BATTLE

A Mere Incident to U. S. Imperialism

HONOLULU, April 27.—"Loss of life has been heavy," is the umpire's report on the great naval and army maneuvers taking place as a test of strength between the theoretical "enemy" and the defensive forces of the United States at Pearl Harbor naval base.

This "loss of life" is, of course, a mere incident in the minds of the umpires. It is reckoned among the price of victory for the stronger of two imperialist powers contending for dominance over the resources and oppressed peoples of the Far East. It is the symbol of what may be expected, however, in the real war that is coming with Japan.

The maneuvers are undoubtedly, intended to demonstrate that both the navy and the army, both in the sea and air, must be strengthened. The other purpose is to show the teeth of American imperialism to the Japanese, in order to make Japan more tractable in the division of China, the hunting ground of all great imperialisms.

Light naval craft and airplanes were the feature fighters of today's maneuvers, two destroyers and a mine layer of the "blue" forces were sunk by land batteries and the "blacks" also lost one boat.

COMMUNIST-FASCIST BATTLE RAGES IN STREETS OF BOLOGNA

BOLOGNA, Italy.—(Special)—The working class section of this city became a battle ground Tuesday night between black shirt fascist troops, armed with hand grenades, clubs and revolvers, and Communist workers, when the fascists tried to prevent Communists from posting party bulletins. Two are dead and fifteen wounded and the local newspapers are suppressed.

Bezimenski to Be Guest at Concert and Ball in N. Y., Sat., May 16

In honor of the young proletarian poet Bezimenski, who in his famous "Comsomolia" pictures the life and work of the Russian comsomol, the Russian comrades of Bronx, Branch 29, I. W. L., are arranging a concert and ball, on Saturday evening, May 16.

An extraordinary program will be presented. Collective declamation, recitation, songs and scenes from the life of the Russian comsomol will be performed by a group of young Communists. Many more numbers on the program. Also dancing. Over all will rule the Communist spirit. Every worker, young and old, is invited to spend a really enjoyable and interesting evening.

Bring all your friends. Remember the date, Saturday evening, May 16, at 1347 Boston Road, Bronx.

Chicago Comrades Will Sing and Dance at the Workers Lyceum, May 9

Besides the usual program of dancing, there will be a very short program on the order of business at the League dance to be held on May 9th at the Workers Lyceum, 2733 Hirsch boulevard.

There will be a few revolutionary songs participated in by all the members of the League and party present and the outsiders as well as a short talk on the League by one of the prominent League members.

The Young Workers League, Local Chicago, is carrying on many activities. At present it is in need of funds to print special leaflets in its Negro campaign as well as in its anti-militarist campaign. The readers of this paper are therefore urged to give the dance every possible support so that the Young Workers League, Local Chicago, can even enlarge its activities.

Remember the date, Saturday, May 9th.

The place, Workers Lyceum, 2733 Hirsch boulevard. Admission is only 35 cents in advance and 50 cents at the door. Tickets can be had from the League office, 19 South Lincoln street, and from all the League members.

Miner's Wife Demands Labor Schools TAYLORVILLE, Ill., April 28.—Agnes Burns Weick, a coal miner's wife and a former school teacher, is making the circuit of the miner local labor classes in the Taylorville mining field, speaking on "The Need Labor Schools."



Young Workers' Correspondence

WESTERN ELECTRIC WORKER TELLS HOW SLAVES RUIN HEALTH AMID SPIES AND BOSSES FOR SMALL PAY

By WESTERN ELECTRIC SLAVE

The Western Electric Co., one of the largest manufacturing concerns in the middle west, is taking advantage of the present unemployment situation to force unendurable conditions on a great number of employees.

One might suppose from the amount of red tape to be gone thru and the rigid physical examination one has to pass to secure employment that a position well worth while was in view instead of the low priced slavery that exists.

Never Get Raise.

The average wage scale is from forty-one to forty-seven cents an hour with an increase of from three to five cents after a period of six months, "providing one's work merits it." It is needless to say that few of the workers "merit the raise," according to the company's estimation. Of course there are a few favored by the bosses who fare better.

Overcrowded Conditions.

The majority of the dressing rooms if they can be called such are uncomfortably over-crowded, there being as many as three men assigned to one of the half size lockers. A man may purchase a lock to put on his locker so that his belongings may be safe while working and the following day may find it broken, not by his brother workers, but by officials of the company so that a new employee may be crowded sardine-like in the toy locker.

Slow Poisoning.

The foremen and straw bosses of the department in which the writer is employed are domineering and overbearing and keep the workers docile by intimidation. The work is hard and dangerous and the hours are overlong. When speaking of danger the writer means not only the loss of fingers or eyes, as often happens but anyone who has ever worked with copper and the chemicals used in treating it knows that they are poisonous and therefore dangerous to health. Many men are today going around in this particular department with arms, hands and face bandaged as a result of a rash caused by the aforementioned poisonous copper.

Discharged for Seeking Raise.

As a protest against the small pay and long hours some of the men recently went to the chief of department with a request for an increase in pay. These men were working under impossible conditions, hard

work in intense heat from ten to twelve hours, some of them without even a lunch hour. These men, some of them with families, struggling to eke out an existence under such conditions, were regarded as rebels and anarchists, were accused of being agitators and as such were discharged.

These same men are now probably walking the streets, jobless, increasing the great pitiful army of unemployed, all because they wanted a living wage and healthful working conditions and had the courage to ask for them.

Long Hours.

The working day is supposed to be eight and three-quarters hours but the writer himself has had as high as seventy-two hours in one week. The employee isn't forced to work overtime, but if he desires to go home to his family at five instead of seven or nine he may find himself reading the "help wanted ads" in the papers next day.

Some of the jobs pay a premium as an inducement to the workers to speed up production and if a man toils long and hard enough he may earn as high as eighty cents premium in a week. One man was even known to have earned as high as one dollar and sixty-three cents premium in one week and was the talk of the shop thereafter.

Lose Eyes and Fingers.

The foremen went around telling the men that such and such a worker earned a premium the mentioned

TOILING YOUTH

By HARRY GANNES.

(Continued from last issue)

In the Russian workers' army there is no illiteracy. In the American capitalist army, John J. Tigert, United States Commissioner of Education, speaking near New Brunswick, N. J., tells us that "one out of every four in the American army could neither read nor write," and he adds, "the average adult American was very poorly educated."

The schools, we see, are the model preparatory institutions for training good wage slaves. During the brief time that the children of the workers spend in school they are herded much like cattle; and plans are now under way to make the schools more like the factory speed-up system. The plastic minds of the children make them ready prey for the capitalist teachings. The lessons of their teachers are deeply impressed on their minds and the child is thrown out into the industrial field as a worker with a distorted mind as to his own interests. He despises his class and class action for he has been taught, even though hungry and cold and ill, that there are no classes in America, and he believes it.

The Church and the Youth.

Not content with the trash taught in the schools, our money masters find it necessary to call upon one of its old time friends, the church. No matter what the religion, the church is the upholder of the present rich man's government and private property, which means the ownership of wealth by the few. It would require a lengthy chapter to go thoroughly into the relation of religion and the working youth, and we here can only touch the matter in its briefest aspect and hope the reader will take the time to examine more carefully and lengthily into the subject from the many books obtainable.

Very early in the capitalist system, the factory owners discovered that to mix religion and business was very profitable and Dr. Ure, an English scientist speaking to factory owners said: "It is . . . excessively the interest of every mill owner to organize his moral machinery on equally sound principles with his mechanical. . . . There is, in fact, no case to which the gospel truth 'Godliness is great gain,' is more applicable than in the administration of an extensive factory."

In the long ago, the church was part of the state. In America we are told that church and state are separated, but the world war left no doubt that, even though not officially connected, all the churches in the United States of whatever denomination (with but rare exceptions) are staunch pillars of our present day society.

The churches recognize themselves as sub-departments of patriotism. Nothing is taught in the Sunday schools which does not harmonize with capitalist teaching; churches are patriotic institutions.

If we can believe one religious authority, one person in every five in the United States is enrolled in a Sunday school. That gives us an idea of the widespread influence wielded by the church on the youth.

Whether Catholic, Jew or Protestant really makes no difference. In February of 1924, three thousand school teachers packed the grand ballroom of the Waldorf-Astoria hotel under the auspices of a Roman Catholic women's organization, a Jewish group and a number of Protestant teachers. Among other things, those three (usually antagonistic faiths) agreed that:

"Surely we ought not to deprive education of that essential need which we get from religion itself. You cannot make children obey the law unless you bring before them the great eternal law given himself."

"Just think of it. God might be permitted to bless the American people. What a land of promise this is. . . . Remember what we read about the history of the American youth, their opportunities and environment and you will feel the hypocrisy of the religious fakers."

(To be continued.)

Month of May Will Be Junior Month for All Young New York Militants

The month of May—the Junior month! This is the running slogan raised by the District Junior Committee of District No. 2 (New York District) as the basis of our activities for the next few weeks. The First of May—the Day of International Proletarian Solidarity—is to usher in a campaign for strengthening and expanding our Junior organization in New York, for the intensification of our school work, for building up the activities of our school nuclei, and, what is of especial importance now, the greatest possible enlightenment of side circles of our party and league membership, sympathizers, and workers generally, on the necessity and the nature of our work among the children.

The campaign for the Junior Month—the Month of May—as laid out by the New York comrades, means, as far as the Junior Section itself is concerned, the intensification and the organization of the school struggle. The New York comrades—of the league and of the Junior section—certainly realize that the work of our Juniors must be centered in the school where the organization itself must have its roots. For the proletarian child, the school is the center of his social struggle; there he, more than elsewhere, becomes personally aware of the social antagonism at the basis of capitalist society; there, where he finds himself the victim of the most efficient machinery of the capitalist mental poisoning and where he sees himself directly as the sufferer from all the brutalities of the rottenest of school conditions and the tyrannies of the bosses' agents—the teachers—there, as nowhere else, is the worker's child drawn deeply into the social struggle of the proletariat,

which arises before his eyes as a live, concrete, definite struggle touching him and his schoolmates personally every moment of the day. "The school is for the child what a factory is for the adult worker." This is the formula upon which our work is to be based—a formula that points out the road to the development of our Junior section into a militant, conscious MASS organization of the proletarian children of New York rooted directly in the seat of struggle.

What does this mean for our Juniors in the schools? It means that our Juniors in the schools must become the CENTER OF ACTIVITY, the CENTER OF STRUGGLE. Our Juniors must learn to look upon every issue that arises in the school from the point of view of agitation and organization—from the point of view of setting into motion the masses of workingclass children around them, of intensifying and crystallizing the elemental movements that constantly arise and of grouping the widest possible circles of children around themselves as a center. They must learn—our Juniors must—to coordinate the struggle in the school with the struggle of the workers—to obtain the backing of the parents in their organizations and of workers and workers' organizations generally. All this may seem a large order for the Juniors—who are after all only children. BUT IT CAN BE DONE AND IT MUST BE DONE. A considerable portion of the road outlined has already been traversed, with the full and hearty support and cooperation of the league and party we are fully determined to march ahead with flag unfurled.

This brings us to the second chief

THE WORKERS PARTY HAS ITS DAILY! CAN'T THE YOUTH KEEP THEIR WEEKLY!



The Cleveland League Hits Hardest Blow This Week

With a swing which registers ten subscriptions, sent in by Comrade Nathan Robboy of Cleveland, the Cleveland organization takes a good crack on the way to ringing the bell of their quota and going far over the top in the Red Star sub drive.

Particularly must credit be given to the East Side English branch in Cleveland. This branch of our Cleveland organization has shown that it takes the Young Worker seriously and is determined to make the Young Worker as much a success as a weekly, as the DAILY WORKER has become as a daily.

In the drive to get two thousand dollars, the East Side English branch made good in all directions. By far the greater portion of the quota of the Cleveland league was raised by this group of militants. Even when the official date of this drive had passed, the branch continued to send

in money on the collection lists and from affairs. Such work and results as this made our weekly Young Worker possible.

Now that the Young Worker is here the Cleveland East Side English branch is determined that it shall grow and become more powerful as the weeks go by. These subs, with the exception of one which was sent in by the Jewish branch in Cleveland, are all from the East Side English branch. More subs will be forthcoming soon, Comrade Robboy assures us. Such activity will assure the existence and growth of our paper.

How Real Nucleus Gets Subs.

In one of the pants factories of Pittsburgh we have a nucleus, which understands how to function and which does some of the best work any of our nuclei have yet accomplished.

In the drive for the weekly, this

was none the less true. This nucleus, under the leadership of Comrade Dickter, was one of the first units to turn in money for the issuance of a weekly Young Worker.

Now, the nucleus is doing its part to make sure that the weekly grows, not only in circulation, but in influence. In the shop the Young Worker is distributed, and subs are taken.

This activity, as well as work on the part of other units and comrades, brings nine subscriptions from Pittsburgh this week. Comrade Mankin, who is in the forefront there in the work for our weekly, informs us that this is just a start, and that subs will flow in steadily, not only before, but after their quota has been reached. Keep it up Pittsburgh.

What is Your League Doing?

Has our unit made the first good start toward reaching their quota? If it has not, no more time should be

lost. Elect a Young Worker agent, send his name and address to the national office. Then elect a committee, composed of one member from each branch, to conduct the campaign.

When this is done, send comrades to all party branches, fraternal and sick and death benefit societies, sympathetic unions and other such organizations. Get subscription bundle orders and donations from all these organizations for the Young Worker.

And don't forget to earn your Red Star Merit Stamp. One sub to the Young Worker will bring this into your possession—without it you are not in good standing in our league.

Extend the circulation and the influence of the Young Worker, make it more powerful; a larger paper of the working class youth in this country. See to it that your league rings the bell soon, and that it hits the hardest blow of the week next time.

Left Wing Activities in the Trade Unions; the Machinists' Elections

(Continued from last Saturday.)

Machinists' Elections.

In the International Association of Machinists elections for International officials is going on. The primaries resulted in the Johnston machine and the Anderson "center" group, being placed on the ballot.

Johnston is the author of the infamous "B. & O. Plan" which turns the union into a slave driving weapon for the bosses. He advocates unity with the bosses in increasing production and speeding up the machinists to accomplish this. He is also a great believer in "labor banks," and every other form of co-operation with the bosses, and fights amalgamation.

The "center" group led by Anderson differs from Johnston on many points in relation to the "B. & O. Plan," expulsions from the union of left wingers, and the amalgamation of the metal unions. However, they are extremely confused and many elements among them are posing as "progressive" merely to oust the Johnston machine and install themselves in office.

The left wing under the leadership of the International Committee for Amalgamation in the Metal Trades Unions, has consistently presented a program of action to the membership, and led the struggle against Johnston

by means of unifying the militant forces in the union. The struggle against the "B. & O. Plan" was the work of the militants of the left wing.

Recently the left wing presented to the Anderson slate three demands asking them to outline their stand on them. These were on the "B. & O. Plan," expulsions in the union, and amalgamation. The replies received show this group to be a "center" group which cannot be relied upon to put into effect any different policy than that of Johnston unless forced to do so by pressure of the left wing.

In view of the fact that support of the Anderson slate offers the best opportunity of smashing the Johnston machine which has been in power for fifteen years, the left wing is supporting the Anderson slate. However the left wing is by no means naive enough to believe that the election of the Anderson slate would solve the problems confronting the machinists. The only policy able to aid the machinists in their struggles with the bosses is that advocated by the left wing: Struggle against the "B. & O. Plan," against expulsions and freedom of expression in the union, and for amalgamation of all metal trade unions.

"History will never forget that in all port of the world the youth were the advance guard against opportunism and that we owe our victory not the least to the energy of the youth."

COMMUNISTS URGE 24-HOUR STRIKE AGAINST HINDENBURG—POINT OUT MENACE TO WORKERS OF FASCISM

BERLIN, Germany, April 28.—A twenty-four hour strike on the day of Field Marshal von Hindenburg's inauguration to the presidency is urged by the Communist Party of Germany in an open letter to the trade unions and the socialists, published in Rote Fahne, it is reported.

The danger of a military dictatorship directed against the workers is pointed out.

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N. Y. Meet Condemns Religious Training and Hawaii Arrests

NEW YORK CITY.—One of the most enthusiastic meetings ever held here by the militant workers was the meeting held Friday, April 17, at Stuyvesant Casino, called to protest against the introduction of religious training in the schools and against the imprisonment of the members of the United States Army stationed at Honolulu for the only reason that they are Communists, and for the further crime that they tried to organize the natives of Hawaii.

Fight Against Religious Dope

The meeting was opened with the singing of the International, a member of the Junior section providing the music. Then the chairman, Comrade Jack Stachel, the district organizer of the Young Workers League of District two, in a few brief remarks stated the purpose of the meeting, and introduced Comrade Herbert Zam as the first speaker. Comrade Zam gave a detailed report of the plans of the capitalists, of the religious training that is already in evidence in this city. He pointed out that out of 1,000,000 school children in this city 260,000 attend parochial schools where religious instruction is part of the curriculum, and about 60,000 more attend Sunday schools. He pointed out that not only must we fight against religious instruction in the schools, but also the religious propaganda that is being spread thru clubs, movies, etc.

Gives History of Religion.

Then Comrade Motal Gertner spoke in Jewish. He gave a brief history of religion and how it was used by every ruling class to keep the oppressed in enslavement. He showed that this new attempt on the part of the capitalists to again resort to religion in order to preserve their rule, is proof of the fact that they have no future, that capitalism is tumbling and that the capitalists must gather together all the forces at their disposal, use all the remaining reserves of the bourgeois order in order to still be able to coin profits out of the toil of the masses.

Junior In Appeal for Children

Great and prolonged applause greeted the appearance of Morris Spector, city organizer of the Junior Section, who has already won national fame thru his speech at the last Lenin Memorial meeting in Madison Square Garden. He began with a description of how religion is actually being taught in the schools. In the assemblies the reading of the bible is universal. Then he spoke of the subtle method employed to force religion upon the children of the workers. They are given to choose which they want to go to some religious school or to stay in the public school and perform the most arduous and unpleasant tasks. The little ones who are in that way abused naturally soon succumb and become the victims of religious training. In many of the other schools religious training is given directly in the class rooms. He concluded by an appeal to the workers present to join the Workers Party the Young Workers League and send their children to the Junior section.

The Hawaiian Case

Comrade Darcy who was the last speaker, spoke at length about the Hawaiian Communists who were given long terms of imprisonment. He said that the capitalists send their mission—arises to Hawaii who brot with them the vices and diseases of the white mob, and reduced the strong Hawaiian race into a race that is degenerating because of the vices grafted upon them. But the capitalists are beginning to be and will be repaid for this. Already we see that in the army, the very heart of capitalism, soldiers are organizing under the leadership of the Communist International and are organizing the natives against American and world imperialism. This he said is a happy moment in the history of our movement. The capitalists can not tell us that the Communist movement is composed of foreigners when the very fortress of capitalism is permeated with Communist ideology.

A resolution pledging a fight against religious training in the schools, and another resolution demanding the immediate release of Comrades Crouch, Trumbull and the other six indicted Communists of the U. S. army stationed in Hawaii was then read by the chairman Comrade Stachel, and adopted unanimously.

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MAX SHACHTMAN,
Business Manager.
Sworn to and subscribed before me this 1st day of April, 1925.
S. T. HAMMERSMARK,
Notary Public, State of New York.

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Education a la Ku Klux Klan

THE Ku Klux Klan has won great victories recently in the Ohio legislature. All three bills involved, introduced by the Klan, were direct attacks on the interests of the working class children in that state.

As a result conditions for the school children will be worse than ever before in Ohio and all educational institutions will stick more closely to the orthodox capitalist line.

The first bill passed recently by the Senate, is the Bible Bill. This bill requires that 10 verses of the Bible be read every day in all public school rooms and that pupils in the fourth and higher grades must memorize the Golden Rule and the Ten Commandments. In this way they will be sure that every school child is inculcated with sufficient religious dope to make him immune from any "ideas" for some time to come.

However, the Ku Klux Klan is thorough, and this bill is not enough. In case any teacher should protest this compulsory education of all children, the Klan has introduced another bill directed at the teachers which states that no teacher with revolutionary sympathies or radical ideas shall be allowed to teach in a state institution.

In this way they gag the teachers and make them harmless in case they should dare to protest against the attempt to dope the children for the bosses. But as we said the Klan is thorough, and even these two bills are not enough.

Superintendent Vernon M. Riegel of the State Department of Education has mailed a letter to all state superintendents of schools, letting them know what the laws are regarding whippings and other punishments in the schools. In case the children object to some of the things being forced down their throats by the Ohio legislature, the superintendents should know just how far they can go without breaking any Ohio laws or school rules.

The letter expresses the opinion that teachers can be "unnecessarily excessive" without being civilly or criminally liable.

"The line of decisions in Ohio holds that the teacher is not liable for an error in judgment in the matter of punishment," the letter states, "although the punishment is unnecessarily excessive."

"This rule prevails in Ohio, though it must be confessed that it is harsh."

According to the letter, the teacher has the same status as the parent in regard to disciplining a child.

It is predicted here that though the Klan may succeed in peddling lots of dope to the children of Ohio for the bosses, they will not gain many members for the Junior Klan as a result of their work. Instead they are expected to gain the lifelong hatred of every working class child who has to read ten verses of the Bible every day in school when he could think of much more pleasant ways to pass his time.

Education in Russia

THE book "Russia," the official report of the British Trade Union Delegation to Russia, is the worst blow yet dealt the yellow liars of the capitalist and 2½ International Press. In some 250 pages this book pictures in detail just what the delegates found when investigating conditions in Russia. The fact that the British Trade Unions were able to send a delegation, let alone publish the book, is significant. It shows not only that the British trade union movement is swinging to the left, but is a demonstration of the real desire for world trade union unity on the part of the British working class. The following excerpt from the report is very interesting in connection with the conditions of the youth and the opportunities for education in the Soviet Republic:

"Each province or large town has its own local educational department which is elected by the local Soviets and sends its representatives to the Moscow Commissariat. These local organizations are directly responsible to the Central Commissariat of Education for all schools and educational institutions within their jurisdiction. They are also responsible for the proper attendance at school of all children between the ages of seven and sixteen.

Teachers are selected by the local Soviets, but always in consultation with the local teachers' trade union. These local teachers' trade unions may report directly to the Central Commissariat or through the Central Trade Union Council in Moscow.

Schools are divided into two grades: the first grade deals with children from seven to twelve and the second from twelve to seventeen or eighteen years of age. Education is obligatory and free in most cases, but in the event of the state subsidy not being able to meet the expenditures in a certain district, a local fee may be charged at the discretion of the Soviet State. This fee is always on a sliding scale, according to the income of the parents, provided they are "Workers."

Originally the Trade Union of each factory or industry organized its own schools. These are now, however, in most cases taken over by the state under the new economic policy of 1922.

Educational Institutions, 1923-1924.

| | No. of schools | Attendance |
|---|----------------|------------|
| First Grade..... | 63,713 | 4,683,000 |
| Second Grade | 1,565 | 315,000 |
| Unclassified (for children between 7 and 9 years) | 693 | |
| Universities— | | |
| Agricultural | 27 | 19,074 |
| Industrial and Scientific | 20 | 31,026 |
| Colleges— | | |
| Agricultural | 123 | 9,622 |
| Industrial and technical | 68 | 10,114 |
| Art Universities— | | |
| Higher Grade | 10 | 6,311 |
| Technical | 65 | 9,748 |

The above figures do not include the trade union club schools and classes for the adults, which appear in another section of the report, nor the schools in the federated and associated republics.

Owing to the lack of accommodation and of teachers, most of the schools at present are working in two shifts, that is from 9 a. m. to 2 p. m., and from 3 to 6 p. m. Boarding schools have lately been established for orphans and destitute children and for children who have no facilities for attending the local schools. Admission to these boarding schools is obtained through the trade unions or local educational departments of the Commissariat.

It is stated that over 50 per cent of all children are now attending school; although that is not considered satisfactory, it is considered a great improvement over the czarist days. By 1927 it is hoped to have put an end to illiteracy in all classes. The total number of schools dealing exclusively with illiterates is now eighty and the total number of students is 4,000,000.

Great attention is paid to modern languages. In all schools French and Russian are taught and in some cases English. Thereafter come mathematics, geometry, elementary science, political economy and anatomy. Under the heading of elementary natural science and anatomy the child is given very detailed instruction in the principles of personal hygiene, sex relationship, and construction of the body. This instruction is supplemented by lectures given by the doctor, who is attached to each school. Once a week all the children are medically inspected, and the resident doctor is responsible for their health and cleanliness."

Trade Union Unity

THE struggle between the Communists and the social democrats for leadership of the masses of the working class in Europe has assumed the shape of a struggle for unity of the world trade union movement. The Red International of Labor Unions is leading the movement for unity while the right wing leaders of the Amsterdam International Federation of Trade Unions fight against unity.

The R. I. L. U. calls upon the workers to organize unity "from the bottom up," in spite of the opposition of the traitorous leaders who oppose it. Amsterdam attempts to demonstrate to the workers that the slogan of unity is merely a "Moscow" plot.

The two trade union internationals are separated by a deep gulf of principle and practice. The conduct of the Amsterdamers during the world war, their defense of capitalism in Central Europe and Italy in 1918-20 when the workers were attacking the capitalist state, and their aid to the capitalists during the vicious assault upon the standard of living of the entire working class, the purpose of which was to restore the equilibrium of capitalist economy—all of this proves that the role of the Amsterdamers is to preserve capitalism.

The R. I. L. U. stands for uncompromising struggle against capitalism, for the dictatorship of the proletariat and Communism.

The issue of world trade union unity is fundamentally a question of whether or not the unions are to be used for fighting capitalism, or if they are to be brakes on the struggles of the workers. The drive for unity is essentially a drive for mobilization of the workers against capitalism. The right wing Amsterdamers understand that and they therefore fight against unity.

The Amsterdam leaders stand for unity with the capitalists. They endorsed the Dawes' plan and have displayed their willingness to aid in putting this plan into effect. The response to the unity slogan of the R. I. L. U. imperials their alliance with capitalism. As leaders of mass trade unions they are of value to the bourgeoisie as "labor lieutenants," but if they lose control of the masses, their value is nil.

TOM BELL, in the Workers Monthly.

"The capitalist countries of western Europe will accomplish their evolution towards Socialism, not by the methodical maturing of Socialism in these countries, but by means of the exploitation of certain states by others, through the exploitation of the first state that is defeated in the imperialist war 'The history of capitalism shows us two tendencies. The East, on the other hand, definitely entered into the revolutionary movement in consequence of this first imperialist war; it has been drawn into the whirlpool of the revolutionary movement.'—Lenin.

Shop Nucleus Experiences in Chicago

By JOHN HARVEY

CHICAGO, the first section of the American League to reorganize on the basis of the Working Area Branch, was also the place where we gained our first practical experience in shop nucleus work. Convinced by more than a year of discussion and education that it was necessary to reorganize; once we were reorganized into the working area branches and straining all efforts towards the formation of functioning shop nuclei; the Chicago comrades became aware of their lack of experience in actual shop nucleus work. It has been only with the greatest effort and by learning from many early mistakes, that the Chicago League today has a clear idea of what a shop nucleus is, how a shop nucleus can be organized, and what the activities of the shop nucleus itself should be.

Many of the lessons in shop nucleus organization learned thru experience by the Chicago League have been costly, and it is not necessary for other leagues to repeat the same mistakes; so I will briefly record some of the most important things learned which have placed the Chicago League in a position today where it can go forward faster and better than ever before in the organization of functioning nuclei in the shops.

How to Organize a Nucleus.
So inexperienced were the comrades at first in the actual shop nucleus organization, that in the beginning we did not even know how to proceed to organize a nucleus once we had three or more comrades and connections within a shop. The mistake was made of continually discussing the question of organizing the nucleus at the meetings of the working area branch, failing to realize that the first essential step in the organization of a shop nucleus was to set a definite meeting night for the nucleus, to see that the nucleus held a formal meeting regularly once a week, and to see that it started functioning immediately as a basic unit of the organization.

Not only is it necessary to make the nucleus start functioning immediately as a basic unit of the organization, so that its meetings will be interesting (more than mere committee meetings to discuss conditions in the shop) but until the nucleus starts meeting regularly and as a real branch of the organization we will not only fail to interest our own members, but we will have no place to which to bring those sympathetic young workers from the shop who are ripe to join the league. And in the beginning when the nucleus consists of only three or four members, its very existence depends upon the getting of new members.

Therefore, the first task when organizing a nucleus is, to arrange "regular meeting time and place and definite agenda for interesting meetings."

The Activities of the Nucleus.
"Is the nucleus a political unit?" This question must be settled once and for all by the members before they will be able to function properly in the shop and carry on young Communist activities there. Those comrades who think the nucleus some sort of a fraction or shop committee and their nucleus meetings of little interest, with all their activities confined to the discussion of the conditions in the shop.

This tendency manifests itself in the effort to subordinate the nucleus and its activities to the Working Area Branch, which the comrades try to

transform into an old residential branch. In other words, the nucleus is left the economic activities in the shop and the Working Area Branch is where the comrades are supposed to go once a week for "interesting meetings," to get political education and transact all league business.

Now, anyone realizes that if the nucleus is going to serve its purpose it is of first importance that all these things be taken up at the nucleus meetings, as the nucleus is the body that must spread our demands, our campaigns, etc., among the masses of young workers in the shop and thus recruit new members for the league.

And since they are recruiting the new members for a Young Communist league, the nucleus must function as a young Communist unit, keeping in the closest possible touch with the city executive committee directly. Instead of those members of the nucleus being isolated from the organization and the general league activities; the

concluded by inviting the sympathetic young worker in his department to this meeting.

But there should be some permanent educational program, consisting of a small study class in the A. B. C.'s of Communism, etc. Such a class is essential for the education of the new members and can be easier conducted in a nucleus than anywhere else. It should be held for a short time at almost every meeting, and at meetings where there is no business or speaker, the class should be given more time. Such a class can very easily be conducted without any outside help, in the same way as any small group would study a book; by each comrade reading a section, followed by discussion and questions.

In Chicago the comrades learned by experience that such a class is not only important for the education of the members, but the new members of the nucleus not only were useless as agitators, but could not be held

the most advanced young workers who were more than ready to join the nucleus, our agitation had left out the most important part, the propaganda for the league and the nucleus which would offer the solution to this question.

Another mistake often made by young nuclei, was that of trying to go far ahead of their base, instead of first trying to build a strong base for broader activities—a larger and better functioning nucleus. For example: In a certain shop in Chicago where the workers had no organizational experience either with a shop committee or a union, a nucleus of four members with several close sympathizers attempted to follow up the demands in the bulletin by attempting to organize a shop committee there. With no movement among the workers in the shop for a committee and with the nucleus too weak as yet to see that one was organized, the meeting called was a complete failure, only stool pigeons showing up. The result of attempting to carry on such activities before the nucleus was strong enough to actually take leadership and realize the attempt, resulted in the nucleus losing instead of gaining members.

Personal Agitation.

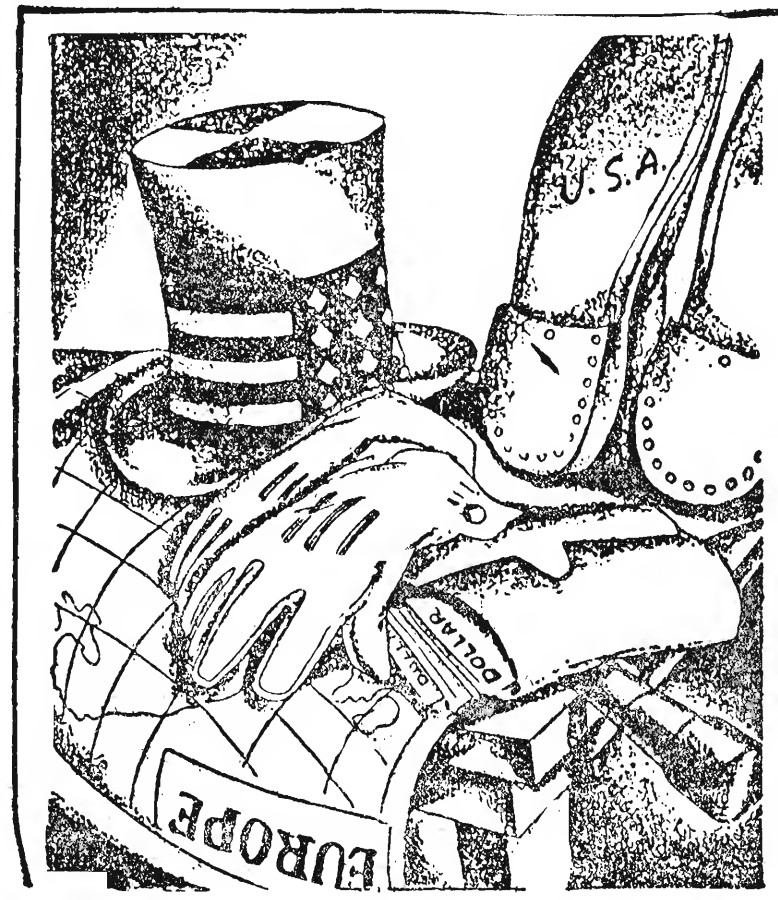
DRAWING the necessary conclusions from these experiences in the activities of the nuclei, the comrades became convinced that the greatest stress must be laid upon personal agitation in the activities of a newly organized nucleus. All the assistance given by the working area branch from outside the factory, the bulletins, etc., must be adapted to aid the comrades on the inside in their personal agitation. The bulletin must not just "expose" conditions in the shop, but must explain sufficiently: "What is the Young Workers' League and what is the nucleus?" so, that they will make it easier for the comrades inside to recruit new members.

At the nucleus meeting the comrades must discuss individual young workers in their departments, decide who is most sympathetic, and see that they concentrate their agitation so that it will have the most effect. As soon as they see that they are making headway, bring the young worker to the nucleus meeting. At the business meetings of the nucleus each comrade should name at least one young worker to whom he will talk continuously during the month, with the aim of interesting him sufficiently to bring him to the propaganda meeting of the nucleus. And every member of the nucleus should in this way bring in at least one new member as the result of every four weeks of agitation.

Personal agitation is the most important activity of a young nucleus, since it is only thru personal agitation that we will be able to organize a unit to which we can attract young workers, and until we have a strong nucleus we will not be able to promote or take the leadership of mass actions involving all the workers in the shop.

Note:—This article has in no way dealt with shop nucleus problems as a whole, but merely with a few experiences of the Chicago League in the first period of its shop nucleus activities. The article will be concluded in the next issue, in which I will tell of what the Chicago League has learned about. The shop nucleus bulletins, the relation of the shop nucleus to the working area branch as well as its relation to the central committee in the city.

MORE AT HOME THAN EVER!



comrades must realize that they are reorganized on the basis of the shop so that they can realize all the activities of the league among the young workers on the job, while it was in the residential branch and not in the nucleus that our activities were isolated.

Education in the Nucleus.

INTENSIVE education is essential for a functioning nucleus. If a nucleus is functioning properly it is continually taking in new members, and these young workers from the shop at first have no fundamental understanding of the young Communist movement and the activities of the Young Workers' League. Whether or not these young workers will remain in the nucleus and become active members of the league, depends to a large extent on how well they are trained in the nucleus.

At least once a month there should be a special propaganda meeting with a speaker on an interesting subject. The personal agitation of a comrade on the job during the month should be

in the league unless they were quickly given some of this fundamental education.

Building the Nucleus.

WHEN a nucleus is small or just starting life in a shop, it was found that many of the comrades in the nucleus forgot that at this stage all energy should be directed towards building the nucleus itself.

The result of this error was that many times the activities of the nucleus and the work of the area branch were directed towards making the most noise possible, and did not always strengthen the nucleus.

The comrades soon learned that exposure after exposure did not necessarily build the nucleus. Often when our bulletins caused the most excitement in the shop it was because they exposed the rotten conditions in the shop so accurately that all the young workers could not help but agree and talk a lot about the bulletin.

But their reaction was: "We know that conditions are rotten, but what are we going to do about it?" And for

The Great Strike of the Italian Metal Workers

"If you drive the class struggle out by the door, it comes back thru the window." This paraphrase of a well-known proverb has been illustrated in Italy in the last few days. For a hundred thousand metal workers went on strike.

It is the first time since the seizure of power by the fascists that a mass movement of this kind has made its appearance. And thruout the whole time there has never been witnessed such a fighting spirit and such a united and spontaneous movement. This is to be attributed to two causes: the fearful rise in prices, and the prolonged regime of oppression under which the workers have been compelled to live since the fascists began to budge on the working class.

What course did events take? The strike broke out towards the middle of March in Brescia. About three months ago the fascist leaders in this town signed a treaty with the employers which granted a bonus on account of high prices of 2 lira (about fourpence) a day. But, intentionally or unintentionally, the treaty did not provide for a minimum wage. The employers did not hesitate to free themselves by an easy method from the liability of the bonus granted to the workers. They simply dismissed hundreds of metal workers in order to re-engage them at starvation wages. As the workers had been so shamefully tricked, they began to be very indignant.

The fascist leaders, who had been thereby rendered ridiculous and were cursed by the workers, were compelled in order not to lose their small handful of followers to take action. They attempted once again to employ their method of collaboration between capi-

tal and labor. But the employers, as it was a question which affected their money-bags, turned a deaf ear. Thereupon the fascist ordered the strike—of course as a piece of demagogic trickery. These fascist leaders who have always made use of a system of repression in order to break strikes, now made use of the same system in order to force the workers in other organizations to take part in the strike, including the clerks and employees who refused to follow them. Ultimatum to the employers, threats of reprisals and the declaration of Rossini, the leader of the fascist trade unions, that "the fascist revolution was not carried out in order to enrich the industrialists!"

The employers, who were aware of the numerical weakness of the fascist trade unions, were not intimidated. If the fascist trade unions had been compelled to conduct the strike alone, their absolute impotence would once again have become evident. But the situation of the Italian metal workers is unbearable. The wages of skilled workers amount to 18 to 23 lire a day, and the lira today has fallen so low that its purchasing power is only 14 per cent of what it was in 1914. The free trade union organizations of the Italian metal workers ("Fiom") could therefore not remain inactive in the face of such a movement, and on the 13th of March issued the strike order to all their members. A hundred thousand metal workers in Milan, Turin and Trieste immediately responded like one man to the call. And with what enthusiasm, with what fighting spirit they responded!

Mussolini, Rossini and his staff, as well as the industrialists, were afraid of the extension of the movement and

immediately set everything in motion in order to break it.

The industrialists began to negotiate with the fascist trade unions for the purpose of granting them this very bonus which was the cause of the strike. The fascists thereupon gave the order to the workers to return to the factories. But the great mass of the metal workers, at the command of the free trade union organizations, remained on strike. It was thus clearly seen that the workers, in spite of the terror, had remained true to their class organization. In this first great struggle of the Italian proletariat against the fascist regime, the masses at the very moment again found their entire unity in action.

When the strike had reached such an extent as to cause it to appear dangerous in the eyes of the government, the latter had the local leaders of the trade unions arrested. The free trade unions thereupon applied to the Communists with the request that they place their "illegal apparatus" at the disposal of the free trade unions for the purpose of conveying directions, distributing leaflets, etc.

This strike was participated in by 90 per cent of the workers. It was inspired with a fighting spirit hitherto unknown. One felt in the masses the eager desire for unity which has grown up even in the years of the fascist regime. It is certain that the strike of the metal workers could have been the starting point for a movement of the metal workers on a national scale, which could then have drawn into it the other categories of workers. But it is clear that the reformist leaders did not wish the workers to be drawn into a struggle of this kind. For this reason the leaders of the

"Fiom," on the 18th of March, against the will of the masses and of the committee of action, issued the order to end the strike and to resume work, declaring themselves satisfied with having demonstrated to the fascists that "the masses are really with them"—the free trade unions.

In Lombardy the workers resumed work with feelings of the greatest bitterness. In Turin the strike lasted some days longer and then work was likewise resumed. The workers in Trieste and Monfalcone remained on strike the longest.

What are the teachings which can be drawn from this strike? Before all the Italian metal workers strike has proved the obvious fact that the fascists have not the masses behind them, and as a result the free trade unions, the proletarian class trade unions, have remained the reliable weapons of the Italian workers, who have recognized more than ever that unity and discipline are the most important prerequisites for victory.

On the other hand the treachery of the reformist leaders has never been so clearly revealed as it has been in this strike. There remains no doubt that this treachery has reached very strongly upon the working masses of Italy, who have recently followed with admirable energy the slogan given out by the Communists of "back to the class trade unions!" It is now necessary to create such organs as shall express the will of the masses and which shall maintain direct contact with the masses as well as with their trade union organizations in order to prevent the trade union bureaucrats from sabotaging the will of these masses. These organs are the "Committees of Action."